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BANGLADESH AGRO-CLIMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL
MONITORING PROJECT

by

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The Agro-Climatic Environmental Monitoring Project (ACEMP) is based on a Participating Agency Service Agreement (PASA) between the Agency for International Development (AID) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The PASA was initiated on September 30, 1981, and the Project was completed September 30, 1987. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NOAA and NASA established NASA's function as the system developer/implementor.

In FY80, the Asia Bureau and Office of Federal Disaster Assistance (OFDA), worked closely to develop a funding mechanism which would meet Bangladesh's needs both for flood and cyclone warning capability and for application of remote sensing data to development problems. In late FY90, OFDA provided \$546,000 for a High Resolution Picture Transmission (HRPT) receiving capability to improve their forecasting accuracy for cyclones, flooding and storm surges. While that equipment is highly complementary and useful to the development purposes of the ACEM Project, it is primarily intended as a disaster prediction and preparedness measure.

The ACEM Project was designed to focus on the development applications of remote sensing technology. Through this Project,

AID provided to the Bangladesh Government (BDG) the equipment, technical assistance, and training necessary to collect and employ remote sensing data made available by satellites as well as hydrological data obtained from data collection platforms placed in major rivers. The data collected will enable the BDG to improve the management of its natural resources.

A Direct Readout Ground Receiving Station for Satellite data was installed at SPARRSO in Dhaka in 1978. This facility was substantially augmented in May 1985 to include digital processing, user and system operation and maintenance training, and a proper operating environment. An Installation Ceremony was held in Dhaka on May 8, 1985.